

REMARKS

A telephone conference between the Examiner and Dennis Smid (one of the applicant's undersigned attorneys) was held on February 27, 2004. The applicant and Mr. Smid wish to thank the Examiner for his time and consideration for such conference.

Claims 1-11 are in the application.

Claims 1-8 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miichi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,880,745) in view of Urade et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,644).

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein as discussed during the February 27th conference so as to recite in part the following:

“wherein said input/output means is a hub
conforming to the USB (Universal Serial Bus)
standard, and

wherein said display means, said input/output
means, and said display control means are integrally
contained within a single unit.”

As discussed during the February 27th conference, it is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of Miichi and Urade does not appear to disclose the above features of claim 1. Accordingly, it is requested that the above 103 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn. For similar reasons, it is also requested that the above 103 rejection of independent claim 5 be withdrawn. Further, claims 2-4, 6-8, and 10-11 depend from one of independent claims 1 and 5 and, as such, include all of the limitations contained therein. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons, it is also requested that the above 103 rejection of these dependent claims be withdrawn.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miichi in view of Urade et al. and further in view of Nguyen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,682,181).

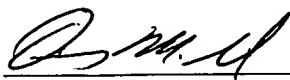
Claim 9 depends from independent claim 5 and, as such, includes all of the limitations contained therein. Accordingly, for at least the reasons previously described, it is also believed that dependent claim 9 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Miichi and Urade. The Examiner appears to rely on Nguyen only for the features of dependent claim 9 and not to overcome the above described deficiencies of Miichi and Urade. Accordingly, it is requested that the above 103 rejection of claim 9 be withdrawn.

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference or references, there is the bases for a contrary view.

The Examiner has apparently made of record, but not applied, several documents. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that these documents, whether considered alone or in combination with others, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable.

Please charge any fees incurred by reason of this response and not paid herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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